a controller actuating the gathering block to move from an unloading position to a predetermined loading position, wherein the gathering surface is spaced apart from the guide surface at a predetermined distance to form a workpiece nest defined between the anvil, welding, gathering and guide surfaces, and the controller actuates the gathering block to move in a time-controlled manner away from the working space back to the unloading position after welding has been completed.

13. (Amended) The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 11 wherein the controller has a memory unit displacing the gathering block to the predetermined loading position in response to data containing a diameter of the workpiece.

16. (Amended) The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 11 wherein the gathering block is controllably stopped for a predetermined period of time before moving back toward the tip guide.

19. (Amended) An ultrasonic welder for splicing a plurality of workpieces comprising:

four anvils having meeting surfaces two of which form side faces of a workpiece nest having a preset width which is defined between the side faces of the nest spaced from one another in a predetermined loading position; and

a controller displacing at least one of the anvils forming the side faces from the predetermined loading position to an unloading position for a predetermined period of time sufficient to remove the welded workpieces and back to the predetermined loading position upon terminating of the predetermined period of time to reestablish the preset width before the workpiece nest receives new workpieces.

Please add new claims 21-27 as follows:

21. The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 19, wherein the four anvils comprise an agitated welding tip, a tip guide, an anvil and a gathering block.

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22. The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 19 wherein the predetermined loading position is sufficient only to place the wires in a series of adjacent substantially parallel vertical columns.

23. The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 19 wherein the width of the predetermined loading position is determined by the formula W=DN, where D is the diameter of a single wire or workpiece, and N is a number of columns.

24. The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 19 wherein the width of the predetermined loading position corresponds to a width of the workpiece nest sufficient for stacking the wires in a least one column extending substantially vertically from the welding tip.

25. The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 11 wherein the predetermined loading position is sufficient only to place the wires in a series of adjacent substantially parallel vertical columns.

26. The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 11 wherein the width of the predetermined loading position is determined by the formula W=DN, where D is the diameter of a single wire or workpiece, and N is a number of columns.

27. The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 11 wherein the width of the predetermined loading position corresponds to a width of the workpiece nest sufficient for stacking the wires in a least one column extending substantially vertically from the welding tip.